

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is requested.

The specification has been amended to refer to the priority application.

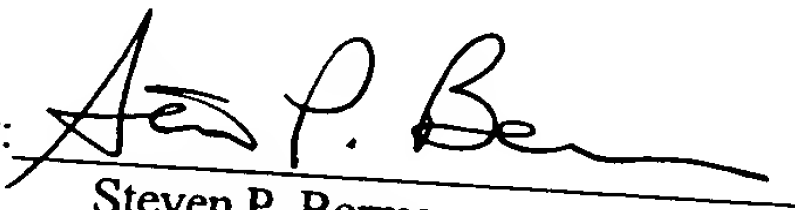
Enclosed herewith is a Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney to be filed in connection with this application. Also enclosed is a certified copy of the priority application (EP 98203148.6) filed September 18, 1998.

Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is/are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 09/812,731

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Page 1, between the title and line 4, insert the following:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation application of PCT/EP99/06776, filed September 14, 1999 which application claims priority from EP 98203148.6, filed September 18, 1998. --